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Office of the Governor

May 30th, 2019

The Honorable Jason Frierson
Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly
Nevada Legislature
401 South Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

RE: Assembly Bill 186 of the 80th Legislative Session

Dear Speaker Frierson:

I am forwarding to you, for filing within the time limit set forth in the Nevada Constitution and without my approval, Assembly Bill 186 (AB 186), which is titled as follows:

AN ACT relating to elections; enacting the Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

AB 186 would enact an Agreement Among the States to Elect the President by National Popular Vote ("The Agreement"). The Agreement would become effective upon approval by states possessing cumulatively at least 270 electoral votes.

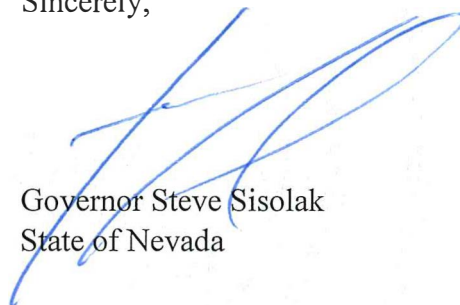
Once effective, The Agreement would amend NRS 298.045 to require that any nominee for presidential elector or alternate from the State could not serve as such unless the nominee for presidential elector or alternate signs a pledge affirming that the individual would vote only for the candidates for President and Vice President who win the national popular vote. The result of The Agreement, once effective, is that Nevada presidential electors would operate in combination with the electors of other signatory states to cast electoral votes only for candidates who have won the national popular vote. Pursuant to the terms of The Agreement, if candidates for President and Vice President were to win the national popular vote, but lose the popular vote in Nevada, the State's electors would be bound to disregard the expressed will of the State's electorate and to cast electoral votes in coordination with other signatory states in support of candidates who have won the national popular vote. As Governor of Nevada, it is my view that this arrangement is not in the State's best interests.

While reasonable people may disagree as to whether the national popular vote should dictate the ultimate winners of Presidential and Vice Presidential electoral contests, this is a notion that does not reflect the delicately balanced system of government that issued from the larger debate at the Constitutional Convention of 1787 between supporters of the Virginia Plan and those of the New Jersey Plan, in which the interests of small states were pitted against the interests of large states. The result was a compromise government that tempered the proposal outlined by James Madison's Virginia Plan, favoring large states by granting vast powers to a new federal government, with the proposal forwarded by New Jersey delegate William Paterson, favoring small states by allowing each state to have one vote in Congress, regardless of the state's population (the New Jersey Plan).

The Agreement, which, when enacted, would require a signatory small state's electoral delegates to vote in support of the candidates for President and Vice President who win the national popular vote, could leave a sparsely populated Western state like Nevada with a greatly diminished voice in the outcome of national electoral contests.

For these reasons, and in the best interests of the Great State of Nevada, I veto this bill and return it without my signature or approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Sisolak", is written over the printed name and title. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the end.

Governor Steve Sisolak
State of Nevada